USSN 09/887,836 - Page 2

square foot of substrate. More preferably, the adhesive material is applied at between 2.5 and 7 x 10⁻⁴ pounds per square foot. The adhesive lamination process according to the present invention is practiced at temperatures well below the boiling point of the antioxidant and ideally remain below 400°F. Preferably, adhesive lamination is conducted at temperatures between about 50°F and 300°F. More preferably, the process is conducted at between 50°F and 200°F. Still more preferably, the process is conducted at between 70°F and 150°F. Most preferably, the process is conducted between 90°F and 125°F resulting in negligible loss of antioxidant through volatilization and enhanced spreadability.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 21 of page 4 as follows:

A thin film substrate according to the present invention includes a flexible layer of any material used in forming packaging film aminate. An outer layer of a packaging laminate according to the present invention is characterized by being impermeable. "Impermeable" as used herein is defined to mean having a vapor transmission rate at 70°F of less than 0.80 grams per 100 square inches per 24 hours. An outer layer substrate according to the present invention includes polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC) coated polyester, PVDC coated polypropylene, aluminum coated polyethylene terephthalate (PET), aluminum coated polyethylene (PE), aluminum coated oriented polypropylene (OPP), aluminum coated nylon, aluminum oxide coated PET, aluminum oxide coated polypropylene and acrylic coated PET, layers thereof, coatings thereof, and combinations thereof. Preferably, the outer layer has a thickness of between 0.05 and

2 mils. Moré preferably, the adhesive material is applied to a surface of the outer

King

May of the

layer to form a laminate having a slippery outer layer surface and an exposed adhesive surface. In one embodiment of the present invention, the adhesive surface is overlayered with a thin film substrate adapted to form an inner layer of a flexible packaging laminate. The inner layer is a polymeric material having a higher vapor transmission rate than the outer layer. Preferably, the vapor transmission rate of the inner polymer layer is greater than 0.80 grams per 100 square inches per 24 hours at 70°F. The inner polymer layer illustratively includes polyethylene, polypropylene, open cell layers thereof, mixtures thereof, and block copolymers thereof. Upon sandwicking the adhesive between inner and outer layers, the resulting packaging laminate is processed to form a packaging unit. The permeability of the inner layer allows air trapped within a sealed packaging unit to come into fluid communication with the antioxidant contained within the cured adhesive layer. The reaction of oxygen with the antioxidant thereby retards the action between a product sealed within the packaging unit and oxygen.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:



1. (Amended) A packaging laminate comprising an impermeable outer layer; an inner layer having a gas transmission rate greater than that of said outer layer; and an adhesive layer between said outer and inner layers and in contact with both said outer and inner layers to form said packaging laminate, wherein said adhesive layer comprises an adhesive resin, a curing agent and a butylated phenolic antioxidant.